Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

AP World History; Ms. Hulme

**The Mandate of Heaven**

*Directions*: Read the following, and then answer the questions based on your reading.

**Background:**

Confucius taught people to have respectful relationships that keep peace in society and the universe. These relationships are generally based on a superior and an inferior. One is not really better than the other, but usually has lived longer and has more experience or more responsibility. Each has responsibilities to the other. Confucius said the superior is required to be good, wise and merciful, while the inferior partner is bound to obedience and respect. Because both have responsibilities to each other, the lower member is not required to do something they know is bad just because the superior tells them to—that would mean the superior had broken their obligation. Confucius taught that highest duty for anyone is to do what is right.

**The Five Relationships**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Parent | Husband | elder brother | Ruler | Friend |
| Child | Wife | Younger brother | Subject | Friend |

Confucius believed that if everyone would live up to his relationship obligations then the world and the universe could be perfect and there would be no need for governments.

In *the Celebrated Cases of Judge Dee*, we follow a famous Chinese judge through some of his cases in the 700's C.E. At that time in China it was normal for the judge to do much of the detective work and then decide how the crime was committed and by whom before he decides on a punishment. If the judge was sure who had committed the crime he could put them under torture to get them to confess, which was very important in the case.

In the Judge Dee cases we see many relationships as Judge Dee deals with various members of society that participate in his court cases. He is a local magistrate, a judge who represents the Emperor in his district of China and must be fair and proper to those he serves. He must learn the truth in his cases and find justice for those who have been hurt.

**Practice:**

Here are some situations from Judge Dee's court cases. Let's see what the relationships are.

1.) An older woman comes into Judge Dee's court, kneels and bows her head to the ground three times before talking to the judge.

**What is the relationship?**

**Is this the proper way for her to treat him?**

**What will his response be?**

2.) Two silk merchants are traveling together to prevent highway robbery. One of them, wanting to be rich, decides to rob the other, sell his silk and live richly. He kills his friend, takes his silk and when caught, blames the whole thing on someone else.

**What is the relationship?**

**Is this the proper way for her to treat him?**

**What will his response be?**

3.) A respected teacher of the classics is in charge of a group of scholars studying for their civil service exams. They spend all day studying and then all evening discussing their lessons. One of the students finds a way to sneak into the adjoining house to meet a woman and becomes involved in the murder of her husband. The Judge blames the teacher for the behavior of his student.

**What is the relationship?**

**Is this the proper way for her to treat him?**

**What will his response be?**

4.) A young married woman fell in love with the rich student we just read about. She realized that her husband's shop would never be able to provide her with all the riches the student could. So she made the student fall in love with her and then murdered her husband in a way she thought no one would be able to detect so she could marry the student.

**What relationship should be the most important to her?**

**Who is the superior in that relationship**?

**What does that relationship require of each of the people?**

**How did the young widow fail?**

**Is she living the virtuous life that Confucius required?**